

L. M. GIBST'S SONS, Publishers.

ESTABLISHED 1855

MURDER OF THE ROMANOFFS

Czar and His Family Suffered Most Horrible Fate

BRITISH FANATICS WITHOUT MERCY

Authentic Facts as to How Russian Royal Family Was Disposed Of—Here is a Story of Fierceness That is Beyond Belief.

From the New York World.

The World has received from an official of the Siberian government established by the Russians at Omak, the following vivid resume of the governmental judicial inquiry in the assassination of the deposed czar, the czarina and the daughter and young son. For prudential reasons the name of the official is withheld.

By an Official of the Siberian Government.

Omak, Siberia, December 12, 1918.—Until recently the fate of the ex-Czar Nicholas and his family was uncertain. The shocking rumors regarding assassination recently decided the council of ministers of the Siberian government to hold a judicial inquiry on the scene of their disappearance. This was carefully and impartially conducted by men who had no monarchical sympathies (being themselves advanced Liberals), verified by witnesses and documentary evidence, and was substantiated by photographs of the scenes of the tragedy.

Ruffians for Guards.

The Bolshevik, drunk with power, and the lust of cruelty, took the ex-czar, his wife and their five children from the monastery of Abolaki, thirty miles from Tobolsk, to Ekaterinburg, where they were destined to spend their last days in physical and mental torture. They were interned in the house of a professor of chemistry named Ipatiev. The building was of two stories with a small courtyard surrounded by a high wooden palisade. The lower floor, furnished with even sumptuously, was occupied by the czar and his family, while the upper floor was occupied by the guards, men especially recruited from the lowest class of Bolsheviks. The prisoners occupied the upper floor.

A condemned murderer's cell is not more devoid of comforts than the small, dark rooms allowed to those who had spent their lives in luxury. Once rich beyond the dreams of avarice, they were now made to suffer the worst torments of poverty; once supreme in power, they were treated as the scum of the earth. The czar and his family were crowded into a single room, the czar's favorite valet and the ex-empress's trusted maid (all of whom were with them in the Abolaki monastery)—had been shot as a reward for faithful services, while the rest of their attendants of less conspicuous loyalty had been dispersed.

Two Small Beds for Seven.

Only two small beds were permitted to this family of seven persons. The children, therefore, were forced to sleep on the floor on their father's uniform greatcoat and other clothes of their parents. No linen, or almost none, was provided. For air and exercise they were permitted to walk in the little courtyard an hour a day. All the rest of the time the Romanoffs were kept copped up in this small flat. Their meals were taken to them by one of the guards and eaten on a bare wooden table, sitting on a wooden bench, from a thick bowl with five spoons among the seven wretched prisoners. When these humiliations were not considered sufficient, when they were borne by the ex-empress with patience and the ex-empress with silent pride, even the few spoons were taken away as an additional vexation.

Or a Sycnally Jovial Guard, as he set down the bowl of food cooked in the common kettle of the soldiers, would whisk it away again, saying, "I see you have good vittals to eat which we have not yet had today," and carry it off down stairs.

At other times one of the guards would come up while the family was seated at table and fish the best pieces of meat and cabbage out of their bowl with his dirty fingers, chiefly for the pleasure of exulting over his victims.

Torture of Daughters.

In the evening the "guards" brutes in human form, would carry the young ex-grand duchesses down stairs to their rooms, whose walls were covered with indecent drawings and obscene inscriptions. One can imagine, too, well what went on there—the poor, innocent girls shivering in the chill of terror while their captors glared at them in triumph, the coarse jests—and worse—all literally within earshot of the agonized parents.

Nor was this barbarity due to the savagery of isolated individuals. The soldiers, if one may dignify such brutes by such a name, were under the orders of a special Bolshevik commissioner, responsible directly to the local commissioners of justice and public instruction, who had full powers on all matters pertaining to the housing and treatment of the prisoners, and who, in their turn, reported personally to the president of the Bolshevik government, the ex-empress's son, Prince Alexei.

Thus the last of the Romanoffs was hunted down by men who styled themselves in charge of the "Public Instruction of Ekaterinburg," "the People's Justice" and the Soviet Republic.

Michael Romanoff Disappears.

The murderers apparently completed the series of their crimes in Perm, whether they proceeded from Anapalievsk. Ex-Grand Duke Michael vanished soon after their arrival.

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Indians Entitled to Citizenship.

Writing from an American Indian reservation to a western newspaper, the Rev. Red Fox Shihushu, a northern Blackfoot Indian, has made an appeal for the admission of his race to citizenship that must have touched the hearts and the imagination of many who read it. "The American flag," says this descendant of the prehistoric Americans, "has given citizenship to every race and nation of the world, but not the American Indian. If our 9,000 boys offer their lives, why should not their people become free as every other nationality on the American soil? Not only were 9,000 American Indians incorporated

Assassins Identified.

We do not know, for none is left to tell. Nor do we know exactly how the crime was committed, though the names of the gang of murderers (consisting of four Russians, one Lett, two Germans and eleven Jews) are on record and their photographs in the hands of the Omak government.

But we can imagine how the miserable prisoners, by this time forsaken of hope, with the loss of which they held dear behind them, sat waiting for death; that when they heard the steps of the ruffians on the stairs they guessed it meant murder, sudden, bloody and all-embracing. We can imagine that the wailing, broken shrieks of the women, the running feet of the children, escape with terror, attempting to creep when no escape was possible, the sighs of dying lips, the last murmured prayers. In the cold words of the report of the judicial inquiry is the pathetic record: "We found in one of the upper rooms of Dr. Ipatiev's house (now occupied by the staff of the Czech General Galda) numerous bullet marks on the walls scarcely the height of a man's waist from the floor and on the floor itself."

There is a tragedy in every syllable of these words. Some of the local packers in Tobolsk, who were the local packers, others that they were buried, others that they were thrown into an adjut in lake. When Ekaterinburg was taken from the Bolsheviks the commission (consisting of representatives of the government, the army and of lawyers and doctors) appointed to investigate the last days and the death of Nicholas Romanoff and his family arrested several people supposed to be witnesses of the tragedy, but their evidence regarding the disposal of the bodies was contradictory.

PROHIBITION AT LAST.

Two-Thirds of the States Have Ratified Federal Amendment.

Ratification of the Federal constitutional prohibition amendment last Thursday, made the United States the first great power to take legislative action to permanently stop the liquor traffic.

GLORY OF THE MARINES

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Something big and breezy, something almost epic, is associated with the simple words, "United States Marines." Part of this, as the marines will cheerfully admit, is due to good "publicity work," good advertising; but advertising, there are authorities enough to prove, never effected a great success without merit behind it, and it is through sheer grit, courage, fighting ability, that the "Devil Dogs" have made themselves beloved and admired throughout the Allied nations—and among the nations—and among the first, if not the first, in the hearts of their countrymen. From their exploits under Deputar, down through their experiences in our own day in the Bahamas, Africa, the Fiji Islands, China, the Philippines, the arctic, Nicaragua, Mexico, Haiti, to "the greatest victory of the corps" at Chateau-Thierry, their deeds "resemble the imaginings of Dana."

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INFLUENZA QUARANTINE.

California Presbyterians Say There Must Be No Discrimination.

Although the Medical Advisory Board and the business men's committee, appointed by the mayor to study the influenza situation, have both advised against the use of masks, or the closing of assemblies, says a Los Angeles, California, dispatch, the city council is trying to take some action other than the quarantine of individual cases now in effect.

CARRIED TOMMY'S MARTIN.

Incident Showing the French Feeling of Gratitude.

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Begrimed and Stained it Exalted the Imagination.

"It isn't the clean bonds of high dominion that interest me," said one of the women who sort the Liberty bonds in a vault of the federal reserve bank, as she snapped a rubber band around a million dollars' worth, more or less.

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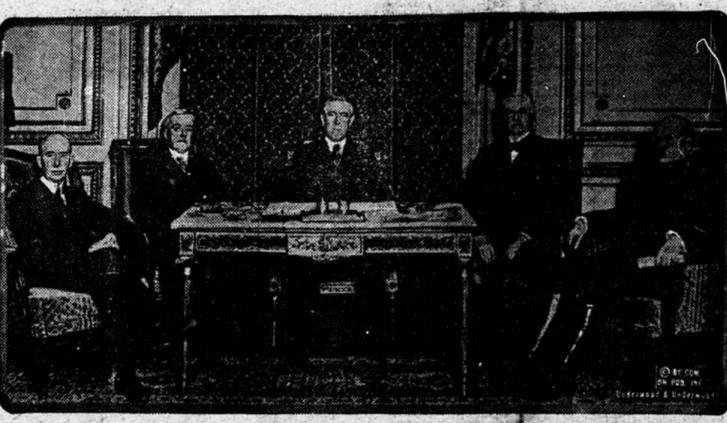
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FIRST PHOTOGRAPH OF AMERICAN PEACE MISSION



This is the first photograph of the American peace mission, taken in the Hotel Crillon, Paris, where the delegates, except President Wilson, are stopping. Left to right, they are: Col. E. M. House, Secretary Lansing, President Wilson, Henry White and Gen. Tasker H. Bliss.

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